



February 10, 2011

Dear House Fish, Wildlife and Parks committee members:

The Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) is a gubernatorially appointed committee of tourism representatives whose focus is helping maintain a healthy industry in the state of Montana. The committee represents Montana's tourism interests and asks that you please vote to support House Bill 370 – "Increase the optional motor vehicle fee for state parks and Virginia & Nevada Cities."

Montana's second largest industry is tourism. As you know the tourism industry is made up of a number of small and medium size businesses that rely on good attractions such as State Parks and sites like Virginia and Nevada City. The vehicle registration funds are very important to making sure our sites are being well managed. We also do not hear complaints about the current system of collecting the fee.

In November and December 2010, the University of Montana completed a Montana economic impact survey and found out that 61% of residents would support a vehicle increase.

The park system has made significant improvements statewide with these monies and the tourism industry has benefited from better services and facilities provided by having a healthier park system. State Parks is a good partner and works effectively throughout the state to help us build healthy local businesses and make Montana's guest feel welcome while enjoying their visit.

Dollars used to fund state parks, fishing access sites and the historic sites at Virginia and Nevada cities would be positively multiplied into jobs and economic support for small businesses. The current vehicle registration program works well and represents good fiscal policy and good services.

Please vote "do pass on" House Bill 370. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ed DesRosier
Chairman